

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-144. (canceled)

145. (currently amended) A fine fiber layer comprising a fiber comprising a condensation polymer and about 2 to 25 wt.-% a hydrophobic additive in the form of a coating on the fine fiber, the fine fiber having a diameter of about 0.1 to 0.5 microns the fine fiber layer having a thickness of less than about 30 microns ~~and about 1 to 100 times fiber size with a basis weight of about 0.01 to 240 micrograms-cm⁻²~~ such that after exposure to 140°F air and a relative humidity of 100% the fine fiber layer retains greater than 50% of the fiber unchanged.

146. (canceled)

147. (original) The layer of claim 145 wherein the layer retained greater than 80% of the fiber.

148. (original) The layer of claim 145 wherein the layer retained greater than 90% of the fiber.

149. (original) The layer of claim 145 wherein the temperature used is greater than 160°F.

150. (previously presented) The layer of claim 145 wherein the fiber size is 0.1 to 0.2 microns.

151. (original) The layer of claim 145 wherein the test period is 1 to 16 hours.

152. (original) The layer of claim 145 wherein the test period is 1 hour.

153. (currently amended) The layer of claim 145 wherein the test period is 3 hours.

154.-162. (canceled)

163. (currently amended) A fine fiber layer comprising a fiber comprising a condensation polymer and about 2 to 25 wt.-% a hydrophobic additive in the form of a coating on the fine fiber, the fine fiber having a diameter of about 0.01 to 0.2 microns the fiber layer having a thickness of less than about 30 microns ~~and about 1 to 100 times fiber size~~ with a basis weight of about 0.01 to 240 micrograms -cm⁻² such that after exposure to 140°F air and a relative humidity of 100% the fine fiber layer retains greater than 50% of the fiber unchanged.

164. (canceled)

165. (original) The layer of claim 163 wherein the layer retains greater than 80%.

166. (original) The layer of claim 163 wherein the layer retains greater than 90%.

167. (original) The layer of claim 163 wherein the temperature used is greater than 160°F.

168. (canceled)

169. (original) The layer of claim 163 wherein the test period is 1 to 16 hours.

170. (original) The layer of claim 163 wherein the test period is 1 hour.

171. (original) The layer of claim 163 wherein the test period is 3 hours.

172.-189. (canceled)